
Manner: HOMICIDE

A death is classified as a homicide when the death results from injuries inflicted by another person. The person thus responsible for the injuries may be charged with murder or manslaughter by the prosecuting attorney, or the prosecuting attorney may decline to file charges. During 2002, 92 deaths were classified as homicide. This number represents 5.5% (92/1,683) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 2002. Of these 92 homicides, 77 were the result of incidents that occurred within King County. For comparison, there were 74 homicides investigated in 2001, of which 66 were incidents in King County. In 2000, 66 of 73 homicides were in King County.

The data reflect the weapons responsible for the homicidal deaths in 2002. Firearms were responsible for 58% (53/92), compared to 2001, when 58% (43/74) were due from firearms. Eighteen percent (17/92) of the homicidal victims died as a result of stabbing by a knife or other sharp-edged instrument. There were 15% (14/92) of deaths due to blunt impact injuries. There were four (4) deaths due to strangulation/asphyxia. Four (4) deaths were due to other homicidal means.

In 2002, there were five (5) homicide victims under five years of age. Two (2) homicide victims were between six and twelve years of age. Two (2) homicide victims were between thirteen and fifteen years of age. Eight (8) homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 19 years.

Examining racial distribution of victims of homicide, 26% (24/92) of the victims were Black, compared to 2001, when 30% (22/74) of the victims were Black. Whites, while representing 76% of the population, made up 49% (45/92) of the homicide victims. The remaining 25% of homicide victims (23/92), included Asians/Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and others. Men comprised 75% (69/92) and women 25% (23/92) of the victims. The majority of victims, 52% (48/92) were between the ages of 20 and 39 years. Young people, 19 years old and under, comprised 18% (17/92) of the homicide victims. For comparison, this younger age group represented 15% (11/74) in the year 2001. Eighty-six percent (79/92) of the victims were tested for the presence of alcohol. Of those tested 38% (30/79) showed alcohol present at the time of death.

Of the 92 homicidal deaths in 2002, eighty-four percent (77/92) of the fatal incidents occurred within King County, and of these deaths, 41 occurred within the city limits of Seattle. In 15 of the 92 homicidal deaths, the incident occurred outside of King County, but death occurred within King County.

The relationship of victim to assailant was not tabulated as part of this report. In order to investigate such associations, additional review of police records would be necessary.

Graph 4-1

Homicidal Methods in 2002

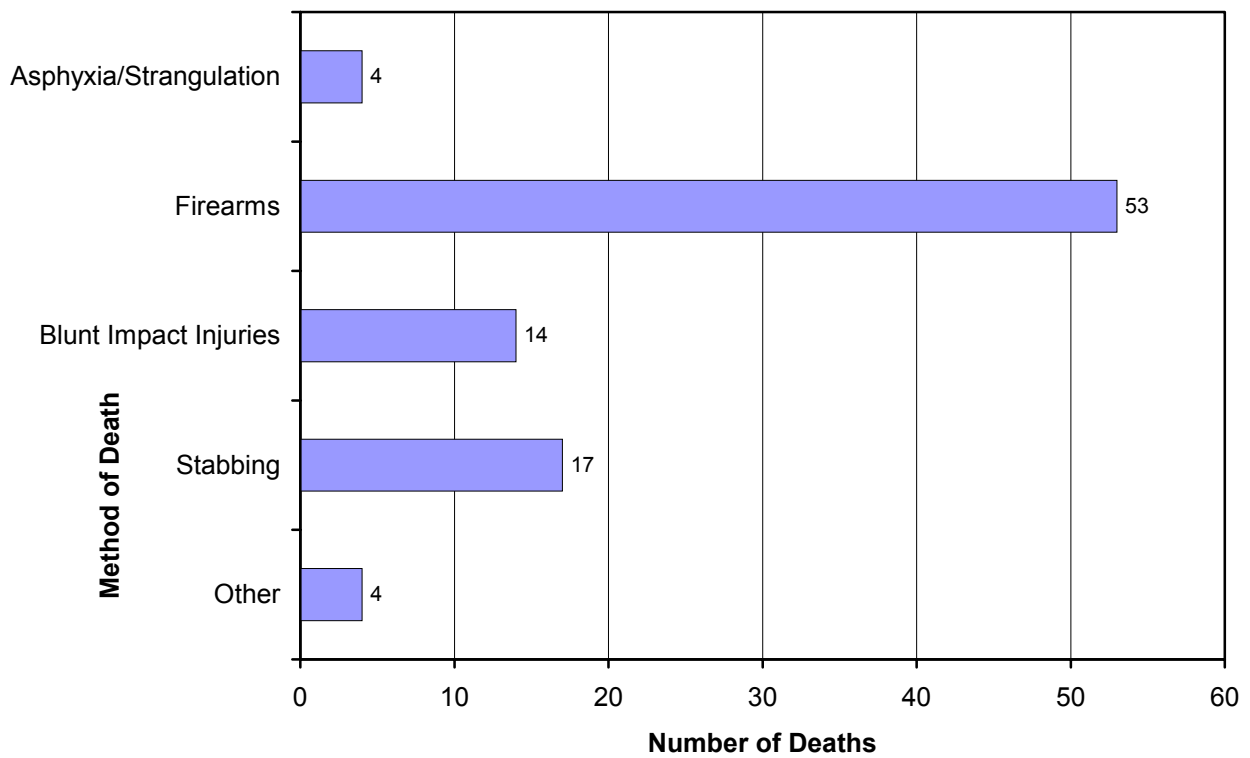


Table 4-1 Homicidal Methods and Race of the Victim

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	0	2	1	1	0		4
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	2	1	1	0	4	
Firearms	24	17	7	2	3		53
<i>Male</i>	17	15	6	2	3	43	
<i>Female</i>	7	2	1	0	0	10	
Blunt Impact Injuries	13	1	0	0	0		14
<i>Male</i>	9	1	0	0	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	4	0	0	0	0	4	
Stabbing	6	4	1	2	4		17
<i>Male</i>	4	4	0	2	4	14	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	1	0	0	3	
Other	2	0	2	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	1	0	1	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	1	0	0	2	
Total	45	24	11	5	7		92
Percent	48.9%	26.1%	12.0%	5.4%	7.6%		

Table 4-2 Homicidal Methods and Age Group of the Victim

METHOD/ GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)													SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	< 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	
Firearms	0	0	1	2	7	14	15	6	8	0	0	0	0		53
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	2	7	12	12	3	7	0	0	0	0	43	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	10	
Blunt Impact Injuries	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	1		14
<i>Male</i>	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	4	
Stabbing	0	0	1	0	1	7	5	0	1	0	0	2	0		17
<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	1	6	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	14	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	
Total	3	2	2	2	8	24	24	10	13	0	1	2	1		92
Percent	3%	2%	2%	2%	9%	26%	26%	11%	14%	0%	1%	2%	1%		

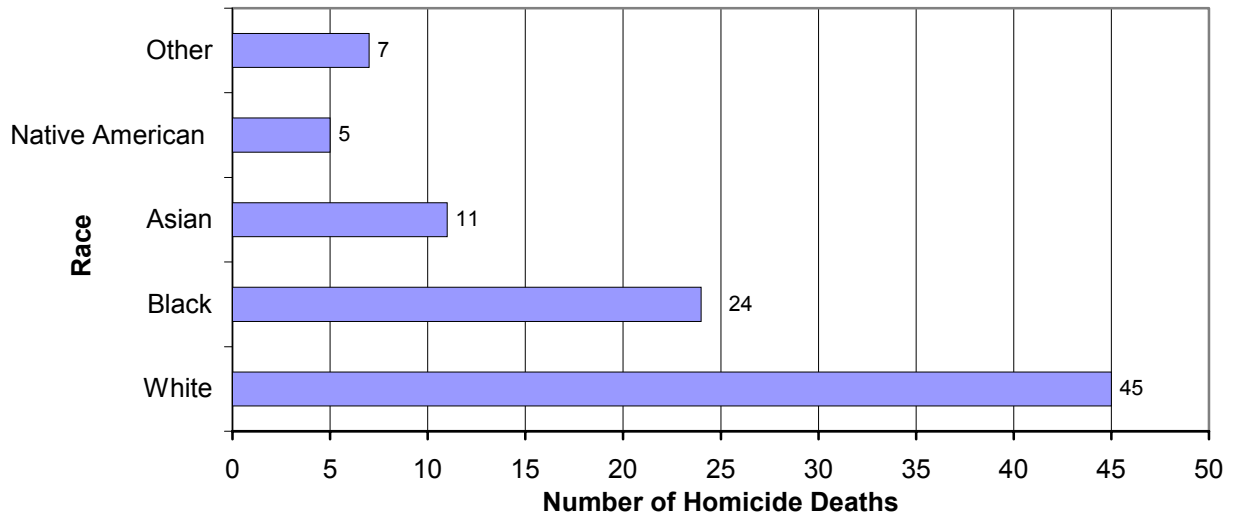
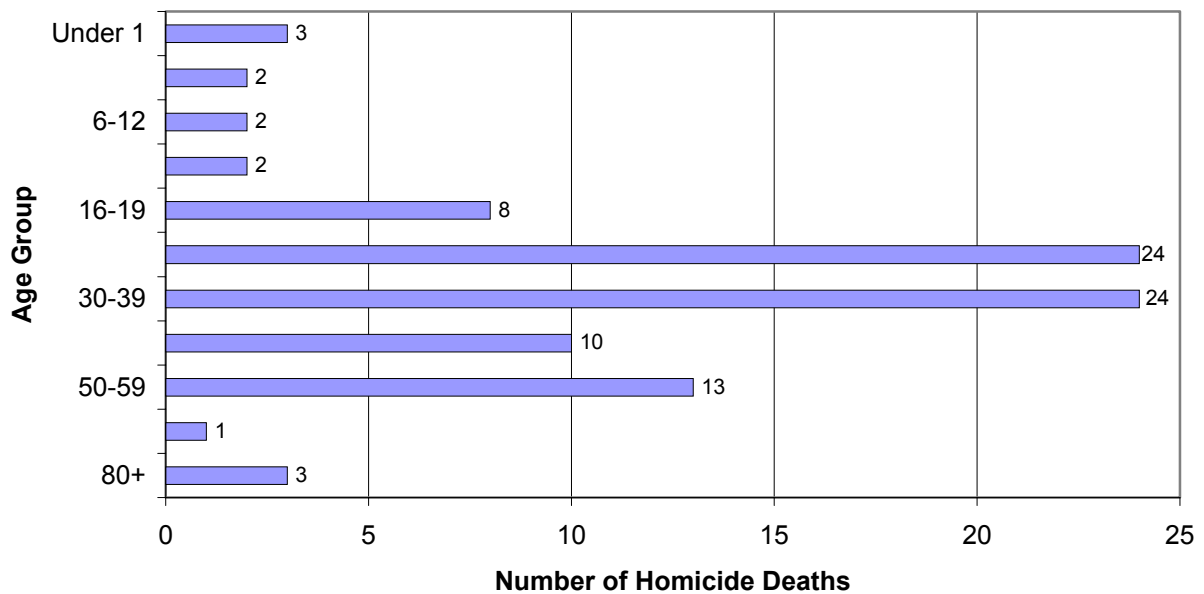
Graph 4-2 Homicide Deaths and Race of the Victim**Graph 4-3 Homicide Deaths and Age Group of the Victim**

Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		UNDER 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Asphyxia/ Strangulation	Black	0	0	1	0	1	0		2
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	
	Asian	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	NATIVE AMERICAN	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Firearms	White	1	2	3	7	6	5		24
	Male	0	2	2	6	3	4	17	
	Female	1	0	1	1	3	1	7	
	Black	0	3	6	5	0	3		17
	Male	0	3	6	3	0	3	15	
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	
	Asian	2	2	3	0	0	0		7
	Male	2	2	2	0	0	0	6	
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	NATIVE AMERICAN	0	0	0	2	0	0		2
	Male	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	OTHER	0	0	2	1	0	0		3
	Male	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blunt Impact Injuries	White	4	0	2	2	2	3		13
	Male	4	0	2	2	1	0	9	
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	
	Black	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 4-3 (Cont..) Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		UNDER 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Stabbing	WHITE	1	0	2	1	0	2		6
	Male	1	0	1	1	0	1	4	
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	
	BLACK	0	0	2	1	0	1		4
	Male	0	0	2	1	0	1	4	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ASIAN	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	NATIVE AMERICAN	0	0	0	2	0	0		2
	Male	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	OTHER	0	1	3	0	0	0		4
	Male	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	WHITE	0	0	0	1	0	1		2
	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	ASIAN	0	0	0	1	1	0		2
	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
TOTAL BY AGE		9	8	24	24	10	17		92

Table 4-4 Homicidal Methods and Gender of the Victim

METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia/Strangulation	0	4	4
Firearms	43	10	53
Blunt Impact Injuries	10	4	14
Stabbing	14	3	17
Other	2	2	4
Total	69	23	92
Percent	75%	25%	

Table 4-5 Homicidal Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Victim

METHOD	TESTED			TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NOT TESTED	
Asphyxia/Strangulation	1	3	0	4
Firearms	24	26	3	53
Blunt Impact Injuries	2	5	7	14
Stabbing	3	13	1	17
Other	0	2	2	4
Total	30	49	13	92
Percent	33%	53%	14%	